



# The Florida House of Representatives

## Office of the Speaker

**Dean Cannon**  
**Speaker**

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members, Florida House of Representatives

**FROM:** Dean Cannon, Speaker

**DATE:** August 12, 2011

**RE:** 2011-12 Committee Assignments

Later this morning, I will release the 2011-12 committee assignments. There are several points worth highlighting in advance.

The membership caps on subcommittees and committees remain unchanged. As a reminder, the caps are as follows:

- 15 members on the twenty-five policy, fiscal, and procedural subcommittees
- 18 members on the five policy committees
- 21 members on the two procedural committees
- 24 members on the two fiscal committees

As you will recall, the jurisdiction of the Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee has been merged into the Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee. That merger, combined with the membership cap, means that interest in the subcommittee exceeded available space. In addition, the subcommittee has been assigned to the schedule's "B" block, which means it will meet at the same time as the following subcommittees: Health Care Appropriations, Government Operations Appropriations, K-20 Innovation, Transportation & Highway Safety, and Agriculture & Natural Resources.

My main priority as Speaker has been to strengthen the House despite the complications imposed by term limits. To that end, I have expanded the opportunities for Members to serve as vice chairs of committees and subcommittees by removing most of the duplication between the policy and fiscal subcommittee chairs and the policy and fiscal committee and subcommittee vice chairs. It is my

expectation that our subcommittee chairs will recognize and embrace this need to create new learning opportunities.

In selecting vice chairs, I considered Member performance during the prior Session as well as the overlap between subcommittee preferences and available vacancies. The nine committees will have 5 new vice chairs. The twenty-five subcommittees will have 14 new vice chairs. Additionally, there will be 4 new deputy whips. Freshmen Members were considered for subcommittee vice chairs and deputy whips.

Another priority has been to reduce the scope of the joint legislative bureaucracy while fully integrating the remaining joint operations into our regular legislative process. Consequently, joint committee assignments are based on service on the underlying House subcommittees with related jurisdiction.

As a result of these assignments, it will be necessary to make a handful of changes to office assignments and floor seating. These moves will be completed prior to the start of committee weeks in September.